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### Antipsychotic Drugs and Sudden Death

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#### Abstract:

Sudden, unexpected death may occur in apparently healthy individuals. Its occurrence in psychiatric patients has raised the concern that the use of psychotropics, especially antipsychotics, may be associated with an increased risk of sudden death. This concern is maintained even though not all psychiatric patients who have succumbed to sudden death have been on psychotropics. Early reports presented the concern that the use of chlorpromazine and thioridazine were associated with sudden death. More recently, the focus shifted to the more potent agents. Indeed, the FDA Advisory Committee discussed the possibility of a connection between sudden death and haloperidol. No decision could be reached by the FDA Committee because of the enormous complexity of the problem. Nonetheless, since sudden death continues to catastrophically complicate the course of some patients, the scope of this review is to further investigate the relationship between antipsychotic agents and sudden death.

#### Keywords:

Antipsychotic , QT prolongation

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